



Severe Weather Policy

2025-26



ST. JAMES THE LESS



www.stjamesthelsschool.co.uk

St James the Less RC Primary Severe Weather Policy

1. Purpose

To ensure the safety and well-being of pupils, staff, and visitors during severe weather conditions, while maintaining clear communication and minimising disruption to learning.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all staff, pupils, parents, and visitors during incidents of severe weather including but not limited to heavy snow, flooding, extreme cold, heatwaves, or storms.

3. Responsibilities

- **Headteacher (Mrs J Bell-Shaw):** Overall responsibility for decision-making regarding school closure or delayed opening.
- **Senior Leadership Team (Mrs H Langan, Mrs L Broadleday, Mrs A Farrell):** Support communication efforts and ensure staff and pupils are informed.
- **Site Manager (Mr B Coleman):** Monitor weather conditions and ensure the school site is safe.
- **Teachers and Support Staff:** Supervise pupils and implement safety measures as directed.
- **Parents/Carers:** Stay informed and follow school communications.

4. Procedures

a) Monitoring and Decision-Making

- The Headteacher and SLT will monitor weather forecasts from trusted sources (e.g., Met Office).
- Decisions about school closure, or delayed opening will be made after, where appropriate, the site has been inspected by the Site Supervisor, and/or Headteacher. The decision will be communicated as soon as possible following inspection. Please assume the school will be open, unless otherwise communicated.
- Consideration will be given to pupil safety, staff availability, and site conditions.

b) Communication

- Inform parents and staff via text message, and school website.
- Update local authority, Chair of Governors, and transport providers as necessary.

c) During Severe Weather

- Ensure pupils remain safe and supervised in school.
- Limit access to outdoors in line with risk assessments.
- Implement adaptive teaching strategies if normal routines are disrupted.

d) School Closure or Early Dismissal

- Parents will be notified promptly.
- Pupils will be supervised until collected.

- Remote learning plans will be activated if closure extends beyond one day.

e) If School Remains Open - Snow/Icy Conditions

- Dress your child appropriately for the weather e.g. snow boots, wellingtons, warm clothes.
- Try to walk part of the journey to avoid Unity Way during icy conditions.
- Allow extra time for journeys.
- Ensure your child attends school, even if they are late.

5. Remote Learning

- In case of prolonged closure, remote learning will be provided, via online platforms e.g. LBQ, Mathletics, Spelling Frame, Letter Join, Google Classroom.

6. Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually or following any severe weather incident.

Policy Written: November 2025

Policy to be reviewed: November 2026